

BOROUGH OF BIRKBECKTONMedical Officer of Health's
Annual Report 1913.CORRIGENDA

Page 18, last line, word 'one' should read 'on'.

" 10, following 15th line, should read
" '1 Prosecution - see page 14'.

" 41, fifth line, word 'erected' should read 'created'.

" 16, T.T.(Certified) percentage = 1.12.

" 42, sixth line, word 'infect' should read 'infest'.



BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1943

By D. O MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (EDIN.), R.F.P.S. (EDIN. AND GLAS.).

Health Department,
Plymyard,
Eastham.

Annual Report, 1943

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Corporation of Bebington.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1943.

In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health this Report is again an interim one confined to essential statistics, with notes on certain points of importance in relation to the Public Health of the Borough, which have arisen during the year. Continued security in population figures and place-names is still required by the Ministry of Health, but I think I can be reasonably excused for mentioning place-names in my report on the Water Supply of the Borough, when the favourable progress of the War since the date of this requirement, i.e., February, 1944, is taken into account.

The population of the Borough at my last reporting showed a decrease of 100, and this year shows an additional decrease of 500 and stands at the figure of 41,300. I consider the explanation for this is as in my last report, i.e., the continual movement of permanent population due to wartime conditions.

The Birth Rate for the Borough is still on the increase, and reads for this year 18.11 as opposed to 17.8 and 16.42 for the previous two years.

The Death Rate shows an increase from 9.6 to 11.01—almost half the deaths occurred in persons in the over 65 age group.

The Infantile Mortality Rate figure for this year is higher than I had hoped, i.e., 62.83 in place of 28.07 and 52.6 per 1,000 births for the previous two years, and exceeds the figure for England and

Wales as a whole which stands at 49.0. This Infantile Mortality Rate of 62.83 reads more like the 1933 figure for England and Wales which was 64.0, and is not far out of the 1941 England and Wales figure which was 59.0 compared to Bebington's figure for that year of 52.6. The figure of 28.07 for 1942 I pointed out was phenomenal at the time, and should not be taken as a figure to be compared with that of 1941, i.e., 52.6, and the figure for 1943 of 62.83; and also with the figures for England and Wales for 1941, i.e., 59.0 and for 1942, 49.0. I would add that in a research over numerous other Authorities, I have not so far come in touch with a figure approaching the Infantile Mortality Rate of 28.07, but to harp back to this figure of 62.83 I am glad to say there are factors which considerably influence this figure for the year 1943, e.g., illegitimate births for 1941 were 26, for 1942 36, and for 1943 41, of which the deaths in illegitimate infants were respectively, 1941, 2; 1942, 2; and 1943, 5; also the cases of premature births still stand well to the fore, which are strongly influenced in their happening by Wartime conditions. In 1943 there were 2 deaths from Birth Injury as opposed to no deaths from this cause in 1942. In 1943 there were 7 deaths from Broncho-Pneumonia as opposed to 2 deaths in 1942. There were also unfortunately 4 cases of Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida in 1943 as opposed to 1 such case in 1942 (an unfair quota of this type of case for the size of our population). To carry this analysis further to a conclusion, with proper care the deaths from Broncho-Pneumonia need not have happened, as need not have happened the 2 deaths from Birth Injury, and had it not been for the War I doubt if we would have had 7 cases of Prematurity. I certainly think we would not have had 6 cases of death from illegitimate births in this population in Peace-time, and, therefore, with the above "unnecessaries" subtracted I see no cause to be alarmed at the Infantile Mortality Rate from the point of view of the average population, particularly when one has to remember that Bebington, as in other communities, has had to do its best against obstacles during Wartime, not the least of which is the depletion in the ranks of the doctors, and the "make-do" with fewer fully trained and experienced nurses. Very definitely despite the Government's efforts on behalf of the expectant mother I am sure, in my opinion, that very many have gone underfed; not the fault of the Government but lack of effort on the

part of the expectant mothers or their relations to take the trouble to find out all the Government extras they were entitled to. Also during their pregnancies very many have had cause to work much more arduously than is fitting for an expectant mother; and finally whilst we have nothing to congratulate ourselves on in this figure, we have little to be ashamed of, which cannot be easily put right.

The Maternal Mortality figure stands at 1.27 as there was one death registered in the Borough for this year of mothers per 1,000 births (live and still) as opposed to Nil for the year 1942. The average figure for England and Wales for 1943 is 2.29. Many of the remarks made regarding the Infantile Mortality Rate apply in this instance.

Regarding the scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation, there were 1,316 children of all ages up to 15 years immunised during the year 1943 (1,006 under 5 years and 310 over 5 but under 15 years) as compared with the figure of 1914 for 1942. The figure of 1,316 children immunised during 1943 includes 829 children of all ages immunised at clinics during the year by your Medical Officer of Health, and so far as records show 33 children were immunised by private doctors—I again presume immunisation now being made so public, and demanded, that the general practitioners must have immunised more but have sent me no returns. These figures show a drop of practically 600 on the immunisations performed as compared with last year. I consider this is due to the fact that such a large number of children have been immunised during the last four years that now we are beginning to see only those children produced yearly coming forward for immunisation. It will be noted that it was only necessary to hold six school sessions for immunisation during this year as compared with thirty-four sessions in the previous year. I anticipate a large increase in the immunisation figures in the Borough during the next three years as the result of children under 5 becoming available for their repeat immunisation between 5 and 6 years of age as recommended by the Ministry of Health. It is worth noting that through the kind offices of the Education Authority, Boundary Road, Port Sunlight, I have obtained a figure of 94 school children whose parents can be classed as “Conscientious Objectors”

to Immunisation. This figure, whilst being trivial in numbers, comparative to the many thousands who have had their children immunised and those who are willing to have their children immunised, represents a danger to others as a likely source for carriers, spread of infection and keeping up the diphtheria case rate. I can say to such people with the piled up unequivocal evidence in support of Diphtheria Immunisation, that they are fools and a menace to their neighbours, whilst finally I say to them, if you are not immunised you may die from Diphtheria, but if you are immunised you may take Diphtheria in a very mild form but you will certainly not die.

With reference to other Infectious and Contagious diseases, the Borough this year is fortunate in the fact that there have been no epidemics and the case incidence of infectious disease does not call for any special note.

In continuation of the work under the Scabies Order, 1941, treatment at the Civil Defence Cleansing Centres at Brackenwood and Plymyard is still afforded for this complaint. During the year 1943, 262 cases were treated and 1,657 treatments given. These treatments have been carried out voluntarily by the Civil Defence whole-time and part-time personnel of the Mobile Unit, Plymyard, and the First Aid Post at Brackenwood. It will be noted that almost double the number of cases were treated during the year, and that comparatively less treatments by over 200 were required to cure this number of cases than of the lesser number of cases in the previous year, i.e., 180 for which 1,412 treatments were required. This surprising figure indicates two things, firstly and probably most importantly the public have become Scabies-conscious and sought treatment before the disease was far advanced, complicated and obstinate to treat, and secondly that with the amount of experience they have had, the members of the staff have naturally become more skilful in the treatment of the disease.

Swabs continue to be taken by this department, and during the year 1943, 245 swabs were recorded.

Infestation by Head Lice.

I am also to draw your attention under Ministry of Health instructions to the action taken by this Authority in accordance with Circular 2831, dated 2nd July, 1943. When this circular was received by this department the Health Visitors were informed of its contents. Combs were obtained as prescribed for purchase or loan, as was a supply of Lethane Hair Oil which was distributed to the parents or guardians of cases requiring treatment. The Matrons and Staff of the two Wartime Nurseries were similarly advised and supplied with combs and oil. Daily inspections were made in the Wartime Nurseries of all the children from a cleanliness and lice infestation point of view, and cases requiring treatment were attended to by the staff. Where it was found that no attention was paid to the efforts of the staff in keeping the heads clean by the parents, the Committee agreed that the Town Clerk write to the parents concerned in strong terms warning them that their children would be excluded from the Wartime Nursery if they persisted in non-collaboration in maintaining the children in a state of cleanliness and free from infestation. The Health Visitors on their rounds of visits pay particular attention to this subject, and in many cases treat it as well as demonstrate how to treat it to the parents. The Civil Defence nurses at the two Scabies Cleansing stations at Plymyard and Brackenwood carry out the work on similar lines, and cases noted as being treated for Scabies can in 90 per cent. of these cases be presumed to have been treated for lice, as my experience has been to find such children who have been infected by a combination of Scabies and Impetigo are also suffering from infestation of lice.

Regarding Wartime Nursery activities in the Borough these continue to flourish, and facilities offered are becoming increasingly more popular by mothers who have to do Wartime work.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge information directly obtained from C. Hardman, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., F.G.S., Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board ; E. V. Suckling, Esq., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.), Consulting Analyst to various Water Authorities, for the copies of his analyses of the Bebington Water Supply which appear in this

report, and also extracts which I have made from his text book on "The Examination of Waters and Water Supplies," in which he shares the Authorship, and Ralph Harry, F.R.I.C., Bebington, for permission to use the definition in his book on pH value.

I should also like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Health and Lighting Committee and Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for their interest. I wish to express my appreciation of my colleagues in all departments, and not the least expression of appreciation goes to the members of the Public Health Department staff who carry on their work with a sense of responsibility and earnestness and who, one and all, will find an illustration of their work coming to light in the compilation of this report.

I am, Your Worship, Aldermen, Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (Edin.), R.F.P.S. (Edin. & Glas.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector: E. V. CRAPPER.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :

E. M. DUTTON.

A. DAVIDSON (With H.M. Forces).

W. H. THOMPSON.

C. CROWCROFT (Temporary Meat Inspector).

One van driver.

One drain tester.

One disinfecter.

One shelter disinfecter.

Clerical Staff.

Managing Clerk : G. HALLIWELL (with H.M. Forces—Missing).

Acting Managing Clerkess : Miss K. DAVIES (To July, 1943).

Miss D. E. HOSKER

(From August to date).

Three Shorthand Typists.

One Telephonist.

Maternity and Child Welfare Staff.

Senior Health Visitor and Child Life Protection Officer :

Miss A. OWEN (To August, 1943).

Miss V. R. ELLERINGTON (From September to date).

Three Assistant Health Visitors : Miss FAWCETT.

Miss SEARCH.

Miss BATE.

One Shorthand Typist. One Junior Clerkess (Vitamins, etc.).

Dr. J. B. Yeoman continues to deputise in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health. Dr. W. Mayne Farr acts in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health as deputy for Civil Defence Services.

Consultants.

Orthopædic Surgeon : T. HARTLEY MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B. (L'pool).

Gynæcologist : MORRIS DATNOW, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Aural Surgeon : PHILIP GARSON, F.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.L.O.

Ophthalmic Surgeon : ERNEST ALLAN, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.).

Pathologist : J. MORRISON RITCHIE, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Glas.), (Birkenhead Municipal Laboratory).

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	12,244
Estimated Resident Population (Mid-Year, 1943).....	41,300
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943)	12,611
Rateable Value	£360,755
Product of a Penny Rate	(estimated) £1,420

Births.

Number of Live Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	394	313	707
Illegitimate	19	22	41
Total	413	335	748

Number of Still Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	15	23	38
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	16	24	40

Total Number of Births (Live and Still) :—

Male.	Female.	Total.
429	359	788

Deaths.		
Male.	Female.	Total.
238	217 .	455

Deaths from :—

Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—
All Puerperal Causes.....	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—
Measles	—
Whooping Cough	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Diphtheria	2
Influenza	10
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	5
Cancer	71
Deaths due to Enemy Action	—
All other Violent Causes	11

Deaths (under 1 year) :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	28	13	41
Illegitimate	5	1	6
Total	33	14	47

Birth Rates and Death Rates, 1942.

	England Bebington.	126 C.B. & Gt. Towns	148 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000
	and Wales. (inc. London). 1931 Census).		
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.		
Live Births	18.11	16.5	18.6
Still Births	0.91	0.5	0.63
DEATHS (ALL CAUSES).....	11.01	12.1	14.2
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Measles	—	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	0.02	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.03
Diphtheria ...	0.04	0.03	0.04
Influenza ...	0.24	0.37	0.36

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

Deaths under 1 year of age	62.83	.....	49.0	.....	58.0	.....	46.0
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	.....	.....	6.6	.....	5.3	.....	7.9
							4.4

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).

Maternal Mortality :—

Abortion with Sepsis	—	0.34	Figures not communicated.				
Abortion without Sepsis	—	0.11					
Puerperal Infection	.....	1.27	0.39				
Others	.....	—	1.45				
Total	.....	1.27	2.29				

Death Rate of Infants under 1 Year.

All Infants per 1,000 Total Live Births.....	.....	.....	.....	62.83
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Total Live Legitimate Births	.....			57.9

Comparative Rates.

	Bebington. 1942.	Bebington. 1943.	England and Wales. 1943.
Birth Rate (Live Births)	..... 17.8	..... 18.11	..... 16.5
Death Rate	..... 9.6	..... 11.01	..... 12.1
Infant Mortality Rate	..... 28.07	..... 62.83	..... 49.0
Maternal Mortality Rate	..... Nil.	..... 1.27	..... 2.29

Causes of Death.

Based on Registrar General's Short List of Causes of Death.

All Causes.	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	1
4. Whooping Cough ...	1	—	1
5. Diphtheria ...	—	2	2
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	8	10	18
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	4	6
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	—	—
9. Influenza ...	6	4	10
10. Measles ...	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis ...	—	1	1
13m Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus (male)	5	3	8
13f Cancer of Uterus (females) ...			
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	8	7	15
15. Cancer of Breast ...	—	11	11
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	22	15	37
17. Diabetes ...	—	1	1
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	21	23	44
19. Heart Disease ...	62	55	117
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	5	7	12
21. Bronchitis ...	19	7	26
22. Pneumonia ...	6	8	14
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	4	6
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	5	1	6
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	4	1	5
26. Appendicitis ...	2	1	3
27. Other Digestive Diseases ...	3	8	11
28. Nephritis ...	7	7	14
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes ...	—	1	1
31. Premature Birth ...	4	5	9
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ...	12	4	16
33. Suicide ...	—	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents ...	3	1	4
35. Other Violent Causes ...	9	2	11
36. All other Causes ...	21	22	43
TOTAL	238	217	455

Table of Infantile Mortality.

Year.						Rate per 1,000 Births.
1922	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64.0
1923	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47.2
1924	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43.9
1925	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.0
1926	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68.0
1927	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36.0
1928	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45.0
1929	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54.0
1930	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	74.0
1931	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45.0
1932	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55.0
1933	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61.0
1934	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48.0
1935	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.8
1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50.0
1937	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49.0
1938	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40.0
1939	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43.53
1940	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67.2
1941	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52.6
1942	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28.07
1943	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.83

(England and Wales, 1943 — 49.0.)

Analysis of the figures is given below :—

Total number of deaths of infants during the twelve months in 1943 was 47. Of the 47, 29 were neo-natal deaths. These were distributed as follows :—

Neo-natal Deaths.

Gastro Enteritis	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Toxæmia of the New Born	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Congenital Deformity	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Prematurity	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Broncho-Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Icterus Neonatorum	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Cerebral Hæmorrhage	.....	.....	.....	1
Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida	.....	.....	.....	4
Inanition	.....	.....	.....	1
Atelectasis of Lung	.....	.....	.....	3
Congenital Debility	.....	.....	.....	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage—Birth Trauma	.....	.....	.....	2
Broncho-Pneumonia and Gastro Enteritis	.....	.....	.....	1
				—
				29
				==

The other 18 deaths were caused as follows :—

Accidental Asphyxia	.....	.....	.....	2
Broncho-Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	4
Infantile Anæmia	.....	.....	.....	1
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	1
T.B. Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	1
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	1
Marasmus	.....	.....	.....	3
Gastro Enteritis	.....	.....	.....	1
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	1
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	2
Septicæmia and Suppurative Arthritis	.....	.....	.....	1
				—
				18
				==

Diphtheria Immunisation Table.

At the permissive request of the Ministry of Health in their letter dated 10th March, 1944, the following table is inserted for further information on the Diphtheria Immunisation campaign in the Borough of Bebington.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Persons inoculated each year from 1934-1943

Age in years on 31st December of the cor- responding year	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st December, 1943
0—			:	:			—	2	3	6	2306
1—							—	41	445	479	
2—							1	37	219	83	
3—							4	83	261	83	
4—							29	82	341	107	
5—							178	126	235	84	Total inoculated aged 5-14 years on 31st December, 1943
6—							174	80	163	36	
7—							181	73	103	38	
8—							260	62	53	20	
9—							240	58	61	25	
10—							272	65	92	20	
11—							318	57	43	31	
12—							311	52	40	24	
13—							266	72	82	27	
14—							27	16	71	18	
15 and over							2	22	129	26	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1943
Age not known							134	280	230	6	
TOTAL EACH YEAR							2397	1208	2571	1113	

GRAND TOTAL, 1934/1943 ... 7289

These figures are abstracted from the record cards in the Public Health Department for the period of the last four years ending 31st December, 1943. There is a discrepancy in this grand total of 7,289 and the total figure recorded in the monthly Health and Lighting Committee report dated 31st December, 1943, although the figures for the 0-5 and 5-15 age groups correspond. The explanation for this is that the larger figure is made up of young adults over 15 years of age or age not known over this four-year period, and the monthly report only records the above-mentioned two age groups, i.e., 0-5 years and 5-15 years.

Water Supply.

Following the instructions of the Ministry of Health on matters to be specially treated in the Annual Report of Medical Officers of Health for 1943, I have to report on the Water Supply of the Borough of Bebington, as follows:—

The water supply to Bebington is a constant supply to every part of the area. Frequently at peak periods of the day there is an insufficient pressure and supply of water to the higher parts of the Borough, particularly Higher Bebington, and in this district difficulty is being experienced in obtaining sufficient flush for lavatories.

There is only one house in the Borough of Bebington which is not supplied directly with water, i.e., Mr. E. Williams, George Croft Bungalow, who obtains his supply of water from Rakehouse Farm, in Bromborough Rake, which is 250 yards distance from his premises. He carries the water in an open receptacle sufficient for his daily needs, and this supply is augmented by rain water for washing purposes. He does not store water on his premises, and his sanitary accommodation is of the conservancy type.

There are no houses in the Borough depending on stand pipe supply. The furring of water pipes due to the large amount of lime in the water is not causing trouble in the mains, but causes furring in domestic premises when water is boiled and lime released. The following premises have recently been dealt with for this reason:—

22, Silverdale Road,	3, Calveley Avenue,
14, Quarry Avenue,	30, Langdale Road,
35, Allport Road,	100, Fairway North.

The water is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board from three sources, i.e., Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and is obtained by pumping from deep Wells, Bores and Adits through the installation of steam and electrically-driven machinery. The water is obtained from the sub-strata formations, six strata below the earth's surface from what is known as Keuper's Triassic stratum, i.e., from the red marl which contains beds of rock salt and gypsum, known also as Keuper's Sandstone, and such sources are often included in one group known as the New Red Sandstone, and although derived from the same geological formation, the raw water from each of the three sources has different chemical characteristics.

Naturally this water coming from this layer has much lime, and in Peace-time is softened, in the case of Prenton to 13.5 p.p. 100,000 before it is distributed, but owing to present conditions, softening operations are suspended pro-tem and sterilisation by chlorination is carried out. In Hooton the water is filtered by Candy pressure process for the removal of a slight trace of iron, and is then softened to 13.5 p.p. 100,000 by a basic softening process followed by simple chlorination. In Mouldsworth in normal times the water is softened to about 13.5 p.p. 100,000, but owing to present conditions, softening operations are reduced pro-tem and the water is softened from about 30.5 to 25.5 p.p. 100,000 followed by sterilisation by chlorination.

All the water has a neutral pH reaction and is non-Plumbo solvent and is characterised by a high standard of bacterial purity. pH value reduced to the simplest terms means that solutions having pH value of 7.0 are neutral and those having pH value of less than 7.0 are acid (the intensity of acidity INCREASING as the number decreases, e.g., a solution of 6.6 is slightly acid, 6.0 more acid, and 4.0 very much more acid, etc.), whilst values from 7.0 to 14.0 denote alkalinity, the strength of which INCREASES with the INCREASING number (i.e., pH=7.5 is slightly alkaline, pH=9.0 more alkaline, and so on). Such numbers of pH value have very much greater

significance than a statement that a substance is merely acid or alkaline.

A table is submitted from the Water Works showing recent analyses and I also submit in addition three more complete tables on chemical analyses together with three recent bacteriological analyses. (It will be noted that these are during the year 1944, and I submit these as they are the most recent at the time of the report being made up.)

	Prenton.	Hooton.	Mouldsworth.
Total Hardness	24.5	13.5	25.5
Permanent Hardness	8.5	0.0	11.5
Temporary Hardness	16.0	13.5	14.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	6.6	9.2	28.4
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	550	690	1200
pH Reaction	N.7.1	N.7.1	N.7.1
Plumbo Solvency...	Nil	Nil	Nil

Copy of Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

PRENTON PUMPING STATION.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

2nd September, 1944.

T/AH/05.

Ernest V. Suckling,
M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Etc.,

1, Broadway, Gidea Park, Essex.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 29th August, 1944, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Prenton Pumping Station—raw water—after chlorination. Flamed tap in softening house.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness, W. Leyland.

Date, 28th August, 1944.

Chemical Results in parts
per 100,000.

Appearance Clear and Bright.

Colour Normal. Odour : Faintly Chlorinous.

Reaction pH Neutral : 7.3. Free Carbonic Acid 1.2.

Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	55.0.	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	18.0.
Total Solids, 180°C.	37.0.		
Chlorine in Chlorides	6.7.		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.40.	Nitrates	Absent.
Hardness : Permanent	8.5.	(..... Grains per Gallon.)	
Temporary	16.0.	(..... do.)	
Total	24.5.	(..... do.)	
Metals	Absent.		
Free Ammonia	0.0040.	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000.	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours			
27°C.	0.0000.	“ Free chlorine reaction ”	Absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLE DECHLORINATED ON COLLECTION.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	.....
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	7.
in 1 day at 37°C.	0.
in 2 days at 37°C.	2.
The Bacillus Coli	..... Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	..... Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes.)	

REPORT.—This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character although not to abnormal degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. It is, therefore, considered pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) E.V. Suckling.

Copy of Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

HOOTON PUMPING STATION.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

2nd September, 1944.

T/AH/03.

Ernest V. Suckling,
M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Etc.,
1, Broadway, Gidea Park, Essex.

Analysis of a sample of Water received 20th August, 1944, from

West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Hooton Pumping Station—
filtered--softened and chlorinated. Flamed tap in softening house.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness, T. T. Lunt.

Date, 28th August, 1944. 3-10 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts
per 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and Bright.	Odour : Nil.	
Colour	Normal.	Free Carbonic Acid	1.4.
Reaction pH	Neutral : 7.4.	Alkalinity as Calcium	
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	690.	Carbonate	24.0.
Total Solids, 180°C.	46.0.		
Chlorine in Chlorides	9.8.		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00.	Nitrates	Less than 0.001.
Hardness : Permanent	0.0.	(..... Grains per Gallon.)	
Temporary	13.0.	(..... do.)	
Total	13.0.	(..... do.)	
Metals	Absent.		
Free Ammonia	0.0000.	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000.	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours			
at 27°C.	0.0000.	“ Free chlorine	
		reaction ”	Absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLE DECHLORINATED ON COLLECTION.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	6.
in 1 day at 37°C.	2.
in 2 days at 37°C.	3.
The Bacillus Coli	Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes.)	

REPORT.—This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water has very moderate hardness, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. It is, therefore, considered pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) E.V. Suckling.

Copy of Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.
MOULDSWORTH PUMPING STATION.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

2nd September, 1944.

T/AH/04.

Ernest V. Suckling,
M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Etc.,
1, Broadway, Gidea Park, Essex.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 29th August, 1944, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Mouldsworth Pumping Station—raw water—before chlorination. Flamed tap in softening house.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness, S. Crawford.

Date, 28th August, 1944. 4-15 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts
per 100,000.

Appearance	Very faint opalescence—very slight deposit of mineral debris. Turbidity: Less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.
Colour	Normal. Ordour: Nil.
Reaction pH	Neutral: 7.5. Free Carbonic Acid 0.9.
Electric Conductivity at 20°C. 1150.	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 19.0.
Total Solids	78.0.
Chlorine in Chlorides	27.6.
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00. Nitrates Absent.
Hardness: Permanent	15.0. (..... Grains per Gallon.)
Temporary	17.0. (..... do.)
Total	32.0. (..... do.)
Metals	Iron: 0.015.—other metals absent.
Free Ammonia	0.0008. Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000. Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 20°C.	0.0000. " Free chlorine reaction " Absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

BACTERIOLOGICAL, SAMPLE DECHLORINATED ON COLLECTION.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	16.
in 1 day at 37°C.	0.
in 2 days at 37°C.	2.
The Bacillus Coli	Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
(Enteritidis Sporogenes.)	

REPORT.—This sample is reasonably clear and bright, containing only a minute trace of suspended matter. The water is neutral in reaction, hard in character, contains no excess of salinity and no metals apart from a minute trace of iron. It is of good organic quality and very satisfactory bacterial purity. These results are normal and consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) E.V. Suckling.

Copy of Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

PRENTON PUMPING STATION.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

18th August, 1944.

Ref. T/AY/55.

Ernest V. Suckling,
M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
1, Broadway, Gidea Park, Essex.

REPORT ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF
WATER.

Received 15th August, 1944, from West Cheshire Water Board.
Labelled Prenton Pumping Station—raw water—after chlorination.
Flamed tap in softening house.

Date, 14th August, 1944. 3-30 p.m.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness, W. Leyland. Signed,
C. Hardman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in one day	0
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in two days	0
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20°C. in three days	1
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 37°C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test.)	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Absent in 100 c.c.

This is a normal and very satisfactory sample.

It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) E.V. Suckling.

Copy of Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

HOOTON PUMPING STATION.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

18th August, 1944.

Ref. T/AY/54.

Ernest V. Suckling,
M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
1, Broadway, Gidea Park, Essex.

REPORT ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Received 15th August, 1944, from West Cheshire Water Board. Labelled Hooton Pumping Station—filtered, softened and chlorinated. Flamed tap in softening house.

Date, 14th August, 1944. 10-25 a.m.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness, T. Lunt. Signed, C. Hardman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in one day	0
--	---

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in two days	1
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20°C. in three days	4
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 37°C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test.)	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Absent in 100 c.c.

This is a normal and very satisfactory sample.

It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) E.V. Suckling.

Copy of Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD. MOULDSWORTH PUMPING STATION.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

18th August, 1944.

Ref. T/AY/56.

Ernest V. Suckling,
M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
1, Broadway, Gidea Park, Essex.

REPORT ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Received from West Cheshire Water Board.
Labelled Mouldsworth Pumping Station—raw water—before chlorination. Flamed tap in softening house.

Date, 14th August, 1944. 11-30 a.m.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness, S. Crawford. Signed,
C. Hardman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in one day	1
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in two days ...	2

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20°C. in three days	3
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 37°C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test.)	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Absent in 100 c.c.

This is a very satisfactory sample of raw water, clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purpose of a public supply.

(Signed) E.V. Suckling.

To conclude, Bebington in obtaining its water supply from the New Red Sandstone Trias, it is obtaining the same supply from the Rocks which form part of the Plain of York and stretch through Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, South and East Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire. The Sandstone strata are very pervious and absorbent and rank next to chalk in abundance of water yield. The water is usually very hard, but much of the hardness is removable by boiling. These unpolluted waters are usually clear, bright, colourless, palatable and wholesome, but many are too hard for cleansing, steam raising, and the various manufacturing purposes. The variations in character, as previously noted, within a limited area are sometimes quite considerable. In sinking a well near Warrington for example, waters enter at three different depths and all vary greatly in character. One was so hard as to impair the usefulness of the mixed well water for domestic purposes. When this was located and excluded, water of unusual excellence was obtained.

Venereal Diseases.

I have to report that on the instructions of the Council, I, together with the Chairman of the Health and Lighting Committee, Councillor R. Williams, attended the London Conference on the 26th February, 1943. This Conference was held under the auspices of the Central

Council for Health Education, and the subject matter for discussion was entitled, "Health Education and the Venereal Diseases."

On returning from this Conference I made a report to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Lighting Committee on the 9th March, 1943. The speakers were made up of medical personnel, expert in the knowledge of these diseases and lay-persons who might be classed as eminent Social Workers drawn from all walks of life. The general feeling and instruction of the Conference to the delegates was to go home and tackle the problem from the social, medical and clerical aspects, and to explain to the innocent the dangers of the Venereal Diseases from a social suffering, as well as a physical suffering standpoint, and to discuss with them frankly, and particularly the adolescent, the dangers of loose-living and illicit intercourse; and to hold out the very definite certainty to the suffering that on seeking immediate medical attention a cure could be promised them.

During and after the Wars, the above subject is of first magnitude importance, and although Bebington from the statistics to hand has been fortunate in an under average prevalence of the above complaints, I would call attention to my figures on the increasing illegitimate birth rate contained in this report, which evidence is sufficient in my opinion to justify that this whole question be still kept vigorously before the Public and particularly in the age groups of 15—25 years of both sexes.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The following summary is based upon information and figures supplied by Miss V. R. Ellerington, Senior Health Visitor :—

(1) MATERNITY SERVICES.

Consultant Obstetrician—Mr. M. Datnow.

1. Ante-Natal Clinic.

Total Sessions held (Fridays 50, Mondays 22)	72
Number of new cases examined	506
Number of cases continuing from previous year.....	121
Re-examinations	2,327
Total attendances (with re-examination).....	2,833

Average attendances per session—40.

77% of total Births in the Borough attended the Ante-Natal Clinic, as compared with 1942, when 72% attended.

It will be noticed that a definite majority of the mothers prefer to go into Maternity Hospitals or Maternity Homes, notwithstanding the provision of County Midwives and the tightening of the regulations governing the admission of confinement cases to Clatterbridge Hospital.

2. Post-Natal Clinic.

Total sessions held	14
Number of new cases examined	178
Re-examinations	14
Referred to Hospital	4
Referred to own Doctor	13
Total attendances	<u>192</u>

(2) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

The County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, together with the Wirral Joint Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge, are both situated in the Borough, but apart from these two Hospitals there is no special provision in the Borough for mothers and babies.

(3) HEALTH VISITING.

There were two changes in the Health Visiting staff this year. Miss A. Owen retired in August, the vacancy being filled by Miss V. R. Ellerington in September. Miss E. Search replaced Miss Ellerington in August, and Mrs. F. Davies, who was engaged towards the end of 1942 owing to an outbreak of measles, continued to be employed until May, 1943.

Records of Visits Paid by Special Measles Nurse.

UNDER 5 YEARS.		OVER 5 YEARS.	
Visits to Measles	290	Visits to Measles	131
Visits to Whooping Cough	182	Visits to Whooping Cough	96
Visits to Measles and Whooping Cough	6	Visits to Measles and Whooping Cough	4

Visits to Pneumonia	4	Visits to Pneumonia	—
Visits Miscellaneous	73	Visits Miscellaneous	3
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	555		234
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Total Visits : 789.

Three cases were removed to hospital with Pneumonia.

Number of Visits Paid.

To Expectant Mothers (first visits 265)	.....	Total Visits	350
To Infants under 1 year (first visits 776)	.....	„ „	2261
To Children between 1-5 years	.....	„ „	4294
To Children under the Infant Life Protection Act	.....	„ „	4
To Measles cases (Health Visitor 60)			
(Special Nurse 425)	.....	„ „	485
To Whooping Cough cases (Health Visitor 91)			
(Special Nurse 284)	.....	„ „	375
To special Immunisation visits to children under 5 years	.....	„ „	1714
To all other visits, including special non-access clinic visits and supervision visits	.....	„ „	1824
To Medical Defect visits re Orthopaedic, Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat, and Dentist	.....	„ „	376
			<hr/>
			11,683
			<hr/>

(4) INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

There have been only two children under the care of the Council during 1943. Both children had good homes and excellent foster parents. One was removed temporarily because of measles in the house ; unfortunately this child also developed measles but made good recovery. We now have no children on the register as one child has gone to reside in Birkenhead and the other to its own parents in the Borough.

(5) CLINICS.

Infant Welfare Clinic.

Conducted by Medical Officer of Health.

Total number of Children attending Centres—1,439.

(This is an increase of 14 over the year 1942.)

1,439 children have made 17,576 attendances during the year at the three Centres, and mothers have made attendances totalling 10,605—a grand total of 28,181 attendances.

631 children under 1 year and 41 over one year attended for the first time in 1943, and 660 children continued their attendances—1,332 children altogether.

Attendances for the Year.

Clinic.	New Ferry.	Bromborough.	Hr. Bebington.	Total.
Sessions	102	53	48	203
Attendances of Children				
under 1 year	5,053	2,731	2,523	10,307
Attendances : Children 1-5	2,133	1,231	1,134	4,498
Attendances : Mothers	6,390	3,630	3,355	13,375
Total attendances—Children and Mothers to all Clinics	28,180			

Medical Consultations at Infant Clinics.

Attendances of Mothers with infants under 1 year	624
Attendances of Mothers with children 1-5 years	516

From these consultations :—

71	Children	were advised	Hospital treatment.
142	„	„	to attend own Doctor.
51	„	„	„ „ Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.
39	„	„	„ „ Eye Clinic.
49	„	„	„ „ Orthopædic Clinic.
13	„	„	„ „ District Nurse for treatment.
11	„	„	„ „ Dentist.
346	„	„	referred for special visits from Health Visitors.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Position as at 31st December, 1943.

No.	1	DISTRICT.	Children Immunised.	Children Not Immunised.	Doubtful Cases.
		Bebington, Hr. Bebington and Woodhey	772	432	80

NO. 2 DISTRICT.

New Ferry, and parts of Bebington, Poulton and North Bromborough	553	493	24
--	-----	-------	-----	-------	----

NO. 3 DISTRICT.

Bromborough, Eastham, Hooton, and Raby ..	597	.....	149	.....	24
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	1922		1074		128
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Taking 3,249 as the total children in the area, it may be said that 55% of the children under 5 years of age in the Borough were immunised at the end of 1943.

Dental Treatment.

Under the scheme arranged by the Council, 13 children received treatment during 1943.

Home Help Services.

Twenty cases were attended by Home Help for 12—14 days during 1943.

Leasowe Hospital for Children.

One child, aged 4 years 3 months, admitted 22nd October, 1942, and still remaining on 31st December, 1943. Parents were paying £1 weekly towards cost of maintenance.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Surgeon: Mr. Philip Garson.

Total number of sessions	12
Total attendances	115
Number of new cases seen	63
Number of re-examinations	52

10 cases went into Hospital.

26 cases referred for Medicinal Foods, Maltoline, Emulsion, Parrish's Food, Virol, Cod Liver Oil, etc.

27 cases referred to Health Visitors for special home visits

12 cases referred to their own Doctors,

Eye Clinic.

Surgeon : Mr. Ernest Allan.

Total number of sessions	...	.....	.....	.....	15
Total attendances	.....	.....	.....	.....	190
Number of new cases seen.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39
Number of re-examinations	.....	.....	.....	.....	151

19 cases referred for Spectacles.

45 cases referred to Health Visitors for special home visits.

4 cases sent to Hospital for operations.

7 cases referred to school for further treatment (reaching 5 years of age).

Orthopædic Clinic.

Surgeon : Mr. Hartley Martin.

21 monthly sessions were held, at which 113 new cases were seen, and 420 re-examinations were made (an average of 25 cases per session).

These figures are elaborated as follows :

			In Relation to School Age.			
			Under.		Of.	Over.
NEW CASES.						
Non-Tuberculous	.....	78	.....	43	.....	—
Tuberculous	.....	—	.....	2	.....	—
RE-EXAMINATIONS.						
Non-Tuberculous	—	210	.....	204	.....	1
Tuberculous	.....	—	.....	5	.....	—

Table I shows all cases on the Register grouped into disease and age categories. The number of cases discharged and the reason for discharge are also shown.

In Table II the cases on the Massage Register are shown, analysed into age groups and disease categories.

Table 1.

DISEASE CATEGORIES	Remaining 1942			New Cases 1943			Remaining 1943			Discharged, 1943						
	In Relation to School Age			In Relation to School Age			In Relation to School Age			Cured	Relieved	Over Age—Relieved	Left District	Refused Treatment	Unsuitable	Died
	Under	Of	Over	Under	Of	Over	Under	Of	Over							
Infantile Paralysis ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Spastic Paralysis ...	3	3	1	1	3	—	3	5	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Rickets ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous—Osteitis and Arthritis ...	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Tuberculous Do. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities—Congenital ...	16	21	1	12	2	—	20	16	1	5	1	—	—	9	—	—
Do. Acquired ...	49	63	—	43	24	—	61	53	—	33	—	—	3	29	—	—
Diagnosis ...	3	2	—	20	4	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	23	—
Totals ...	72	92	2	78	35	—	91	79	1	38	2	1	3	41	23	—

Message Return. Table 2.

DISEASE CATEGORIES	ATTENDANCES										CASES		
	Of School Age					Under School Age					Over School Age	NUMBER OF CASES	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CASES
	Boys		Girls			School Age		Boys		Girls			
	Attending School	Not Attending School	Attending Special School	Attending School	Not Attending School	Attending School	Special School	Boys	Girls				
	Attending School	Not Attending School	Attending Special School	Attending School	Not Attending School	Attending School	Special School	Boys	Girls	Girls			
Infantile Paralysis	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	7	—	—	2	1.0	
Spastic Paralysis	73	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	85	—	5	7.0	
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
T.B.—Osteitis and Arthritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Non-T.B.— Do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Congenital Deformities	187	—	—	—	—	242	—	117	3	—	15	21.0	
Acquired Deformities	303	—	—	—	—	396	—	164	105	—	54	71.0	
Totals	563	—	—	—	—	675	—	288	193	—	76	—	
Totals	1238					481				76		—	
Percentages	72.0%					28.0%							

Orthopædic After-Care Clinic, 1943.

Visits by Surgeon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Attendances by Orthopædic Sister	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Attendances by Masseuse	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	88

	Non-Tuberculous.						Tuberculous.					
	Under		Of School		Over		Under		Of School		Over	
	School Age.	Age.	Age.	Age.	School Age.	Age.	School Age.	Age.	Age.	Age.	School Age.	Age.
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls.
NEW CASES.												
Surgeon	41	37	20	13	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Masseuse	21		16		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ATTENDANCES.												
Surgeon	112	98	105	99	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	1
Masseuse	288	193	563	675	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DISCHARGES—(See Table I).												
Surgeon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Masseuse	22		17		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Government Issue of Vitamins.

Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices.

Distribution of the above during 1943 to children under five years and expectant mothers at the New Ferry Health Centre and Branch Centres were as follows:—

	Cod Liver Oil.		Orange Juice.	
New Ferry	1,641	.....	11,868
Bromborough	954	.....	8,269
Higher Bebington	684	.....	3,444

It will be noted that more mothers and children have taken advantage of these Vitamins by the figures this year.

Analysis of Borough Births.

Total number of notified births for the Borough after deducting the 495 transferable births, was 777. Of these 34 were still born. These births occurred in the Borough Wards as below:—

Park	74
New Ferry	112
Port Sunlight	73
Bebington	83
Higher Bebington	74
Woodhey	84
Poulton	59
North Bromborough.....	60
South Bromborough.....	95
Eastham	63
	<hr/>
	777
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Males (Still-born 12)	416
Females (Still-born 22)	361
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	777
	<hr/>

Where births occurred :—

At home attended by Midwives and Doctors	320
In Clatterbridge Maternity Hospital.....	375
In Hospital or Homes in Birkenhead	43
The Garth, Neston (evacuated mothers)	3
Liverpool Hospitals or Homes	9
Heswall Nursing Homes.....	13
West Kirby Nursing Homes	9
Chester Nursing Homes	1
Chesterfield Nursing Homes	1
Malpas Nursing Homes	1
Denbigh Nursing Homes.....	1
Harrow Nursing Homes	1
	<hr/>
	777
	<hr/>

77% of the mothers to whom these infants were born had attended the Borough Ante-Natal Clinic.

59% of the births were born in Maternity Homes or Hospitals. The gross notified births were 1,272 and transfers out were 495.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1943.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	269	220	1
Diphtheria	67½	67	2
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	17	—
Pneumonia—Acute Primary ...	35	10*	2
„ Acute Influenzal	5	2	1
Erysipelas	13	7	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis ... }	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	8	8	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Measles	223	2	—
Whooping Cough	134	1	1
Total ...	773	336	8

§Of these 67 cases, 1 occurred in the County General Hospital and belonged to an area outside the Bebington Borough.

*Nine nursed at home under the Council's Domiciliary Nursing Scheme.

Table showing Ward Distribution of Total Cases of Notifiable Diseases, 1943.

Disease.	Ward.										TOTAL
	Hr. Bebington	Woodhey	Bebington	New Ferry	Park	Sunlight	N. Bromborough	S. Bromborough	Eastham	Poulton	
Scarlet Fever ...	17	31	38	22	14	21	23	27	47	29	269
Diphtheria ...	5	5	2	21	6	5	—	7	2	14	67
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	17
Pneumonia ...	4	10	7	5	2	2	—	2	6	2	40
Erysipelas ...	—	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	—	2	13
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Oph'tlmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	8
Measles ...	17	30	18	19	20	9	30	58	7	15	223
Whooping Cough ...	6	15	14	22	20	21	10	18	—	8	134
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	49	93	81	93	63	61	64	113	62	94	773

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years											
0	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1
15	...	...	...	3	11	1	—	1	3	—	—
25	...	...	...	10	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
35	...	...	...	9	4	2	1	—	2	1	1
45	...	...	...	1	2	—	1	3	3	—	—
55	...	...	...	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 and upwards	...			—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	...			28	21	5	3	6	9	4	2

Sanitary Circumstances.

Mr. E. V. Crapper, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for the following reports on the Sanitary Inspection of this area :—

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of and Nature of Inspections made	No. of Notices Served				Result of Notices				Total for 1942	Total for 1941
	Total for 1943	Informals	Secondary	Statutory	Outstanding from 1942	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings		
Dwelling Houses Inspected	691	624	—	—	368	634	372	—	479	403
Do. re-inspected	1499	—	298	190	14	—	—	—	1123	687
Overcrowding	75	3	—	—	20	—	23	—	23	153
Offices	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	10
Tents, Vans, Sheds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Courts, Passages	10	7	1	—	5	2	10	—	22	26
House Drainage	548	62	14	14	5	67	—	—	642	644
Privy Middens	831	261	61	—	35	221	75	—	741	552
Cesspools	23	3	—	—	1	1	3	—	12	44
Ditches, Watereourses	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	59
Offensive Accumulations	69	3	1	1	3	—	6	—	57	49
Keeping of Animals	18	3	—	—	1	1	3	—	40	14
Rat Infestations	142	2	—	—	1	—	3	—	114	136
Slaughterhouses	420	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	344	309
Butchers' Shops	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	146	144
Grocers	53	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	96	193
Ice Cream Premises	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	25
Other Food Premises	219	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	172	116
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	—
Offensive Trades	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Piggeries	9	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	20	51
Dairies	79	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	122	139
Cowsheds	248	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	230	259
Factories	9	—	—	—	6	—	6	—	20	36
Workplaces	30	10	1	2	2	6	6	—	16	10
Bakehouses	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	37
Smoke Observations	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	3
Public Schools	10	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	9	4
Places of Entertainment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Public Conveniences	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Private Schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Licensed Premises	8	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	4	6
Infectious Diseases Inquiries	568	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	382	325
Do. Revisits	268	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	213	352
Verminous Premises	266	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	228	171
Verminous Persons	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Filthy & Unwholesome Premises.	—	4	—	4	—	3	1	—	—	—
Rag and Bone Dealers	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fouling of Footways	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Miscellaneous... ..	287	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	198	430
Appointments outside Office	165	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	241	277
Totals ...	6675	986	377	213	467	937	516	—	5778	5716

Housing Act, 1936.

The following figures relate to work carried out during 1943 :—

8 Applications have been received for “ permitted numbers.”

1 Existing house has been measured.

39 Visits have been paid to inspect rent books, to inquire into cases of overcrowding, etc.

3 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books the permitted number, etc.

2 Warning letters sent.

3 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books the name and address of the M.O.H.

2 Warning letters sent.

2 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books information relating to persons responsible for keeping houses in a reasonable state of repair.

2 Warning letters sent.

20 Cases of overcrowding abated.

3 New Cases of overcrowding.

In reference to the 20 overcrowded families, involving 131 people, these were dealt with as follows :—

8 Re-housed by Private Owners.

1 Re-housed by the Council.

1 Reduction in family owing to death.

9 Reduction in family owing to War Service.

1 House demolished by enemy action.

Housing Repairs.

Difficulties were experienced in remedying defects in houses owing to labour shortage and shortage of some materials, and many more visits were required to property before work was completed. A lower standard had to be accepted, but it should be reported that a large number of small items are accumulating through the district which will call for ultimate action, and which will have become major defects by the time proper action can be taken.

A nuisance of a novel character occurred on several occasions through the year. Complaints were received about foul smells, particularly in the bathroom, and day visits resulted in no evidence of a nuisance. On one occasion, however, your Chief Sanitary Inspector erected night-time conditions by having the black-out drawn, and the electric light on, which resulted in the cause of the nuisance being discovered—foul smells from the black-out material. Some of this material placed around light shades gave off very offensive odours, particularly when damped by steam from the bath and heat from the bulbs.

Licensed Premises.

Black-out conditions rendered ventilation more difficult in these premises, but occasional visits did something to improve conditions, and on one occasion an electric fan was provided and on two occasions fans were repaired.

Sanitary conveniences were found defective in four instances, and immediately remedied.

The use of cracked glasses is far too frequent, and methods of cleansing glasses should be dealt with by post-war legislation.

Certificates of Disrepair.

Three applications were received from tenants for certificates under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, and in each case certificates were granted. At the end of the year two of these were still in force, as the whole of the work had not been carried out. In the other case, your Chief Sanitary Inspector certified the house as reasonably fit for human habitation, and the owner was able to demand the full rent.

Work Carried Out in Default.

18 Sanitary dust bins were supplied in default and the owners charged with the cost.

House Drainage.

18 Smoke tests were applied to house drains.

2 of these were at new buildings or additions to existing buildings ;

16 of these were at existing buildings.

99 House drains were cleared by plunging or rodding.

Disinfection.

The following articles have been disinfected or destroyed during the year 1943 :—

Beds disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	615
Other articles disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,442
Rooms disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Library books disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	548
Beds destroyed	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Other articles destroyed	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
					<hr/>
					7,659
					<hr/>

Disinfestation.

The following figures relate to verminous premises :—

Rooms treated :—

Council houses (involving 10 houses owned by the Council)	.....	.....	55
Private houses	.....	.....	178
Beds disinfested	.....	.....	21
28 houses were found to be infested with bed bugs.			
4 houses were found to be infested with fleas.			
42 houses were found to be infested with cockroaches.			
45 houses were found to be infested with rats.			
4 houses were found to be infested with ants.			
11 houses were found to be infested with miscellaneous vermin (furniture beetle, woodlice, etc.).			

Cleansing.

13 houses were found to be in a filthy or unwholesome condition. Co-incident with treatment of persons affected with scabies at the cleansing stations, 40 beds and 320 articles of bedding have been disinfected.

Methods of Disinfestation.

All premises infested with vermin are visited by a Sanitary Inspector who, after inspection decides upon the methods of disinfestation. Bed bugs are usually dealt with by spraying with Zaldescide and steam disinfection of the bedding. Tenants are advised to place the posts of their beds in tins(old boot polish tins, etc.) filled with paraffin. Owners are invited to co-operate with the Sanitary Department and the tenant, by filling in cracks in wall plaster, removing and/or refitting woodwork.

Requests are frequently made to deal with empty houses, and this method of co-operation ensures the new tenants a clean house.

Slaughter Houses.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Figs.	Total.
Number killed	1564	1461	1932	22009	261	27227
Ante-mortem inspection, including supervision of humane slaughter... ..	1530	1426	1881	21334	253	26424
Notice of slaughter received ...	1564	1462	1932	22009	261	27228
Emergency notifications	6	35	4	20	21	86
Post-mortem inspection	1173	678	1401	11209	208	14669

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcases condemned ...	6	57	2	—	6	71
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	150	373	4	4	20	551
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.97	29.43	0.31	0.01	9.95	2.32

All Diseases, except T.B.

Whole carcases condemned ...	1	9	7	18	1	36
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	117	208	15	522	12	874
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B.... ..	7.54	14.85	1.13	2.45	4.94	3.34

Food Inspection.

The under-mentioned food was found upon examination to be unsound and unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered :—

36 tins Bacon.	40 lbs. Prunes.
94 lbs. Bacon.	974 tins Fruit (various).
15 Boiled Hams.	340 tins Pudding
35 lbs. Ham.	(Fruit, etc.).
298 tins Steak and Kidney	32 tins Rice Pudding.
Pudding.	35 packets Cereal.
4983 tins Meat (various).	7 lbs. Semolina.
617 lbs. Beef.	106 bags Flour.
1 Jar Beef Paste.	172 lbs. Porridge.
2512 tins Soup.	111 Cakes.
18 packets Soup.	6 lbs. Cake.
1072 tins Stew.	3209 tins Fish.
1272 tins Scotch Broth.	150 Crabs.
2807 tins Macedoine.	29 stone Fish.
15706 tins Vegetables (various).	1 lb. Mustard.
56 lbs. Cooked Peas.	2 jars Pickles.
7 cwt. Potatoes.	10 tins Tea.
175 tins Milk.	11 tins Ovaltine.
162 Eggs.	106 lbs. Cooking Fats
53 lbs. Cheese.	(Margarine, Lard, etc.)
29 tins Cheese.	5 doz. Meat Pies.
502 lbs. Biscuits.	2 doz. boxes Mustard and
192 lbs. Tomatoes.	Cress.
1 cwt. Apples.	464 tins Jam, Marmalade,
	etc.

Legal Proceedings.

Prosecutions were instituted as follows :—

- 1 and 2. Against an owner for failing to comply with notice to carry out repairs under Sections 45 and 93 P.H.A., 1936.

Defendant fined 40s. and 10s. 6d. costs. Ordered to carry out repairs within 28 days.

3. Against an owner for collecting rent without having his name and address inserted in the rent book.

Defendant fined 5s.

4. Against a rag and bone dealer for distributing books and toys from a rag cart.
Defendant fined 1s. and 5s. costs.

Supervision of Milk Production.

Sediment Tests.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors continued their efforts to maintain a cleanly supply of milk, and to this end at least one visit was made each week during early morning milking. Sediment testing of milk was continued and again proved useful in demonstrating to the producer on the spot whether his methods of milking were satisfactory. Twenty-five tests were made and a cleanliness percentage of 31.5 resulted, a decrease when compared with the previous year. Figures since 1937 are as follows :—

1937	.....	No. of tests	254	Cleanliness %	60%
1938	.....	„	160	„	61.2%
1939	.....	„	66	„	61%
1940	.....	„	254	„	62.27%
1941	.....	„	85	„	63.5%
1942	.....	„	104	„	53.46%
1943	.....	„	25	„	31.5%

The reasons for a decline in cleanly production may be summarised as follows :—

1. Labour difficulties.
2. Black-out conditions tend to encourage milking in poor light.
Inspectors have concentrated their efforts on the producers who have previously given bad results.
Fuel economy has on a few occasions been the excuse for lack of sterilisations of utensils.
3. Fewer visits of Inspectors due to increase of other work.

Your inspectors are following up all unsatisfactory results, but the worst results following bacteriological examinations have been from producers outside the area, and constant attention is given to pasteurised milk where your officials have had cause to believe that the pasteurising plant is not efficient or not properly maintained or used,

Souring of milk gave us much concern, and it was felt that the age of milk was at fault. Enquiries made and samples taken frequently showed that the milk produced one day was pasteurised the next day, and the following day sent into this area, arriving in the afternoon. This was bottled by the dairyman in the evening and retailed the next day at hours varying from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. It is too much to expect milk to be fit for human consumption under these circumstances. This milk is often supplied to priority customers, whose need for a pure and clean product is greater than the non-priority customers.

Two Factory Canteens changed their sources of supply following unsatisfactory milk sample results, and subsequent samples have been found to be satisfactory.

Milk Sampling.

The following tables show the result of Milk Sampling :—

	No. of Samples.	No. T.B. Positive.
Commercial Milk.....	42	6
Accredited	119	9
Tuberculin Tested	1	—
T.T. (Certified)	7	1
Pasteurised	45	—
Goats' Milk	1	—
	<hr/> 215	<hr/> 16

This equals a percentage of 7.4 as compared with 2.4 for 1942.

The following figures show the number and result of examinations for T.B. during the past 13 years :—

	No.	T.B.	% T.B.
Commercial Milk	1,001	52	5.1
Accredited	987	78	7.8
Tuberculin Tested	57	—	—
T.T. (Certified)	67	1	—
Pasteurised	263	—	—
Sterilised	21	—	—
Goats' Milk	1	—	—
	<hr/> 2,197		

The Table below shows the number and results of graded milk samples submitted to the bacteriologists for the prescribed tests during the year 1943 :—

	No. Examined.	No. Satisfactory.
Accredited Milk	119*	86
Tuberculin Tested	1	1
T.T. (Certified)	7	4
Pasteurised	45§	19
	<hr/> 172	<hr/> 110
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

* Four of these samples of accredited milk were sold by the retailers from whom they were taken, as commercial milk, but were sold to them by the wholesalers as accredited milk. These samples satisfied the prescribed tests relating to accredited milk.

§ Ten of these samples of pasteurised milk were sold by the retailers from whom they were taken, as commercial milk, but were sold to them by the wholesalers as pasteurised milk. Seven satisfied the prescribed tests relating to pasteurised milk and three failed to satisfy these tests.

Food Decontamination.

Six squads are trained for dealing with food contamination by gas, and all turn out periodically for practice.

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector is Food Decontamination Officer and has trained the squads, and the other three inspectors are Assistant Food Decontamination Officers. All the personnel (41 in number) are drawn from food premises, and the six squad leaders are :—

J. V. Evans (Butcher).
 Mrs. Haddock (Greengrocer).
 Mrs. Coakley (Canteen Assistant).
 Miss Bithell (Grocer's Assistant).
 Miss Western (Grocer's Assistant).
 Mr. G. Patterson (Butcher).

Rodent Control.

A survey of the area was made in regard to rat infestations and degrees of infestations marked on a map. A list was also prepared, and rat infestations classified as follows :—

1. Reservoir Type.—(Huge colonies with ampler waste food and living quarters, giving rise to surplus population which tends to overflow and infect surrounding property.)
4 areas.
2. Major Infestations.—(Large infestations with definite limits on their population, set by available living quarters and food supplies.)
7 areas.
3. Infested sewer lengths.
1 area.
4. Minor Infestations.
8 areas.

This survey did not include agricultural land.

